

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A transfer rate controller, comprising:

input means of inputting a picture or sound stream;

packet rate adjusting means of controlling a transfer rate of the stream by adjusting an interval between packets respectively belonging to each frame of the inputted stream; and

output means of outputting the stream outputted from the packet rate adjusting means;

wherein the interval between packets adjusted by the packet rate adjusting means is a value of remaining time to the start of next frame divided by number of packets not being transferred.

2. (Original) The transfer rate controller according to claim 1, the packet rate adjusting means changes the frame rate.

3. (Original) The transfer rate controller according to claim 1, the packet rate adjusting means makes no change in the frame rate.

4. (Original) The transfer rate controller according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the stream has a plurality of multiplexed data.

5. (Original) The transfer rate controller according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the stream has no multiplexed data.

6. (Previously Presented) The transfer rate controller according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the stream is an MPEG transport stream and the packet is a transport packet.

7. (Previously Presented) The transfer rate controller according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the packet rate adjusting means controls a transfer rate according to a warning indicative that an overflow is likely to occur in a buffer of a decoder.

8. (Previously Presented) A transfer system, comprising:

the transfer rate controller according to claim 7; and

a decoding system, having: a buffer for temporarily storing an inputted stream;
and

decoding means of inputting the stream from the buffer and decoding and outputting the stream,

monitor means of monitoring a free space of the buffer and issuing a warning to the transfer rate controller, which transmits the stream, if an overflow is likely to occur in the buffer.

9. (Previously Presented) A medium for storing a program and/or data for allowing a computer to carry out all or some functions of all or some means of the transfer rate controller or the decoding system according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the medium is processible by a computer.

10. (Previously Presented) An information aggregate comprising a program and/or data for allowing a computer to carry out all or some functions of all or some means of the transfer rate controller or the decoding system according to any of claims 1 to 3.

11.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring a data stream from a reproducing device to a decoder comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting over a transmission medium, to the decoder from the reproducing device, the data stream;

(b) receiving over the transmission medium, from the reproducing device, the data stream at a predetermined data transfer rate;

(c) storing the received data stream in a temporary buffer;

(d) monitoring, within the decoder, a data overflow condition in the buffer;

(e) transmitting, from the decoder to the reproducing device, a warning signal indicating the data overflow condition; and

(f) adjusting, within the reproducing device, the data transfer rate of the data stream from the reproducing device to the decoder, by adjusting an interval between packets respectively belonging to each frame, whereby the decoder receives the data stream at a reduced data transfer rate to prevent buffer overflow, and the adjusted interval between packets is a value of remaining time to the start of next frame divided by number of packets not being transferred.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 in which transmitting and receiving the data stream in steps (a) and (b), respectively, includes transmitting and receiving an MPEG transport stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving and step (e) of transmitting includes, respectively, receiving the data stream and transmitting the warning signal between the reproducing device, which is housed in one unit and the decoder, which is housed in a separate unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving includes receiving MPEG transport packets and step (f) of adjusting includes adjusting an interval between each transport packet.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 in which transmitting and receiving the data stream in steps (a) and (b), respectively, includes transmitting and receiving the data stream over an IEEE 1394 bus.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving includes receiving MPEG transport packets and step (c) of storing includes

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converting the received MPEG transport packets into a packetized elementary stream (PES).

19.-20. (Cancelled).